

Resolution to Recognize Competency and Prior Student Learning in Indiana's System of Higher Education

February 13, 2014

WHEREAS, a quality college degree or workforce credential is the primary path to prosperity for Hoosiers of all walks of life;

WHEREAS, the best return on investment for students and taxpayers results when students find the shortest and least expensive path to completion within a program that demonstrates academic quality and workforce alignment;

WHEREAS, academic programs that focus on competency—what students know and are able to do as a result of their study—enhance academic quality and create a stronger link to employers and the workforce;

WHEREAS, a system of higher education that awards credit for demonstrated competency and prior learning rather than simply crediting seat time will provide flexibility for students to find shorter and less expensive paths to completion and increase the likelihood they will graduate;

WHEREAS, the Commission's *Reaching Higher, Achieving More* strategic plan champions state and institutional policies that give students credit for prior learning through competency-based assessments that evaluate the knowledge and skills individuals have accumulated from work and related experiences;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- I. The Commission endorses the recognition of competency and prior learning as a key strategy to provide students with increased opportunities for degree attainment, on-time completion and career success.
- II. The Commission calls upon Indiana's colleges and universities to:
 - a. Cultivate a culture that focuses on what students know and are able to do;
 - b. Examine their policies on prior learning and self-paced study; and
 - c. Provide students with additional tools for demonstrating competency and prior learning wherever possible.
- III. The Commission will publicly showcase colleges and universities that make meaningful progress toward the recognition of competency.